

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0856

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP, PEPR, VM
SUBJECT: STAFFDEL TINKER - ARCHBISHOP HANNAN'S COMMENTS
ON US-SRV NORMALIZATION

1. DURING HIS AUGUST 9 VISIT TO VIENTIANE (SEPTTEL),
ARCHBISHOP PHILIP HANNAN OF NEW ORLEANS COMMENTED THAT
THE SRV OFFICIALS WITH WHOM STAFFDEL TINKER HAD SPOKEN
HAD TAKEN EXACTLY THE SAME LINE WITH RESPECT TO U.S. -SRV
NORMALIZATION AS HAD BEEN TAKEN WITH ANOTHER RECENT GROUP
OF AMERICAN VISITORS (VIENTIANE 833). HE SAID THE
VIETNAMESE WERE OBVIOUSLY EAGER FOR DIPLOMATIC AND
COMMERCIAL RELATIONS TO BE ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THE ARCHBISHOP SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE
WANTED NORMALIZATION "WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS."
2. THE ARCHBISHOP SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE VIETNAMESE
WITH WHOM HIS GROUP HAD SPOKEN HAD SAID THAT THE SRV
WANTED ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. TO BE MARKED BY
RESPECT FOR VIET NAM'S "SOVEREIGNTY" AND "HONOR."
THE ARCHBISHOP SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE DID NOT SAY WHAT THEY
MEANT BUT THAT SUCH WORDS COULD MEAN PRACTICALLY ANYTHING.
ROBERTS

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NNN

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